

Remarks:

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated March 13, 2006.

Prior to entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-27 remained pending in the application. Claims 10-17 and 22-27 have been allowed. Claims 1-9 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Adamske et al. (US 6,615,234). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claims 1-9 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the present application to allowance of the claims now indicated as allowable, applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and 18-21 without prejudice to further prosecution in this application or any other application.

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AMENDMENT

Serial No. 09/941,038

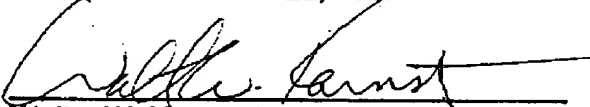
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Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

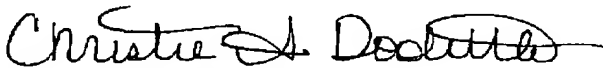
KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Walter W. Karnstein
Registration No. 35,565
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679
Attorney for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner T. Lamb, Group Art Unit 2622, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on June 13, 2006.



Christie A. Doolittle

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